



# Assuring Quality Care to Vulnerable Populations

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# OUR MISSION

*To promote, protect and improve the health  
of all people in Florida.*



Florida Department of Health's Vision  
*A healthier future for the people of Florida*



State Surgeon General's Vision  
*Advocate for Floridians on health care issues that affect  
their safety, health and wellness*



# Department's Focus Areas

- Disease Prevention
- Elimination of Health Disparities
- Strengthening Public Health Preparedness
- Improving Health Literacy
- Promoting a Healthy Environment



# My Focus as State Surgeon General

## 3Ps Initiative

### – Prevention

- Fitness and nutrition
- Disease control
- Health disparities
- Injury and accident prevention

### – Preparedness

- Family level– Create a family preparedness plan
- Community level– develop local support systems
- Local, State and Federal Partners

### – Personal Responsibility

- Health literacy
- Promoting healthy behaviors



# PREVENTION

- Increased Florida's immunization rate for 2-year olds to second highest in the nation
- Reduced annual perinatally acquired HIV cases from 172 to 5
- Decreased prevalence rate of current cigarette use by 60% among middle school students and 42.7% among high school students



# PREVENTION

- Achieved a 93% cure rate on most difficult TB cases (A.G. Holley Hospital) vs. traditional cure rate of 50%
- Successful public wellness campaign (Step-up Florida) in all 67 Florida counties
- Leading advocate for merging traditional urban planning with environmental health concepts to serve as a catalyst for livable communities that enable healthy lifestyles



# PREPAREDNESS

- Developed a comprehensive (5 year) all-hazards strategic plan for public health preparedness
- Trained 1,000 laboratory workers on chemical terrorism and all 5 public health laboratories are at the highest level of Bio-Safety Capacity (Level 3)
- Established Special Needs Shelter Program that integrates a standardized and comprehensive approach to protecting vulnerable citizens during disasters





# PREPAREDNESS

- In 2005, the Department of Health played a leading role in re-establishing public health infrastructure (ESF 8 Health and Medical) operations in coastal Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



# PREPAREDNESS

- Florida is one of only 10 States in the Nation given Homeland Security's highest rating for its comprehensive emergency management plan to respond to any major natural or man-made disasters



# PREPAREDNESS

- Facilitate community integration of all objectives outlined in the Pandemic Influenza Plan in preparation for possible epidemic
- Build the capacity of every community in Florida to reach its highest potential to respond to public health emergencies using the Plan, Train, Equip, Exercise and Evaluate methodology



# PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Foster improved dialogue between patients and providers and improve health literacy in plain language
- Improving our department's messages to ensure they are understandable at all levels
- *"Ask me three"*



# Some Important Facts

- Florida's non-elderly uninsured population is about 3.5 million, which is 23% of our population – and is growing at an alarming rate
- Healthcare expenditures in Florida are estimated at \$100 Billion
- Healthcare cost inflation is over 10% annually
- Healthcare is almost 16% of the Gross State Product



# Rates of Uninsured Populations

USA Today recently listed a ranking of the rates of uninsured populations of the states. The top three:

Texas - 23.9%

New Mexico - 20.1%

Florida - 19.8%

National Average – 15.1%



# PUBLIC HEALTH

In every community in Florida, public health creates the conditions necessary for all Floridians to optimize their health



# The Role of Public Health in Florida

- The role of public health is to promote and protect the health and safety of all Floridians.
- This mission is accomplished by:
  - Identifying health risks in the community
  - Maintaining a safe and healthful environment;
  - Detecting, investigation, and preventing the spread of disease;
  - Promoting healthy lifestyles;
  - Providing primary care for individuals with limited access to such care from the private sector; and ensuring that health care practitioners meet the requirements for providing adequate care; and
  - Informing the public on health issues.





# County Health Departments

- County health department clinic services are rendered by licensed professional staff, including physicians, dentists, RNs, ARNPs and PAs.
- County health departments participate in the Vaccines for Children Program



# Public Health Services Delivered by County Health Departments

- DISEASE CONTROL
- PRIMARY CARE AND PERSONAL SERVICES
- ADULT HEALTH CARE
- HEALTHY START AND MATERNITY SERVICES,
- CHILD HEALTH (CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES)
- FAMILY PLANNING
- DENTAL HEALTH
- FOOD INSPECTION
- WATER SUPPLIES
- VITAL RECORDS
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- PHARMACY
- LABORATORIES



# Children's Medical Services Network

- 23 CMS Network Offices
- 22 Child Protective Team Offices
- 16 Early Steps Offices
- 5500 physician providers in the CMS Network
- Approximately 100,000 children served



# Dental Public Health Program

- 44 of Florida's 67 CHDs provide dental services.
- Total number of CHD clinics is 81, including 6 mobile dental clinics.
- Treatment of Medicaid eligibles is the priority, with emphasis on children.
- Medicaid eligibles from all counties receive some dental services from CHD programs.



# Dental Public Health Program

- Statewide, CHDs provide care to 20% of Medicaid dental recipients.
  - May range up to 80% or more for some CHD's
  - The private sector provides 58% overall
- 61% of total CHD dental patients are Medicaid.
  - 72% of CHD children dental patients are Medicaid (may range by county 48-100%).
  - 28% of CHD adult dental patients are Medicaid (may range by county 1-97%).



# Dental Public Health Program

- Medicaid reimburses CHDs for dental services covered by the Medicaid State Plan:
  - Children: comprehensive with limited orthodontics
  - Adults: complete and partial dentures, necessary oral surgery for dentures, and emergency dental procedures.



# The Bureau of Clinical and Preventive Practice Management





# The Bureau of Clinical and Preventive Practice Management's Mission Statement

- Preserve and enhance the financial sustainability and operational viability of Florida's health care safety net.





# The Bureau of Clinical and Preventive Practice Management

- The Bureau of Clinical and Preventive Practice Management has four units:
  1. The Health Policy Research and Provider Practice Management Unit;
  2. The Financial Sustainability Unit;
  3. The Clinical Efficiency Unit; and
  4. The Dental Public Health Program.



# Healthcare Workforce Issues

- As Florida's population has increased, our healthcare workforce has failed to keep pace.
- This is true for all sectors of delivery, especially physicians, dentists and nurses.



## Summing it all up...

- 75 percent of the uninsured population use the public health safety net or make it their medical home.
- It is imperative that we preserve this public health safety net for these vulnerable populations.